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No. 3 shews an addition, for levelling cuts.

E. E.—The addition placed under No. 2.

F. F.—Where seats were placed for men with shovels to clear off snow. The additional cross bar was feather edged, and had wings for throwing off the snow.

*To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.**

IN the Belfast News Letter of the 17th December last, a paragraph appeared, stating, for the second time, instances of probity of one of the Belfast pawn-brokers in detecting theft. Without wishing to derogate in the smallest degree from the merit of such conduct, it must be admitted, that in proportion as this honest conduct is praiseworthy, that which is directly opposed to it is culpable. How much, then, it is to be regretted, that no instance of this quick-sighted vigilance appeared during a space of about nine months, preceding the 22d of June last; during which time a certain shop in Belfast had been deliberately and from time to time robbed of plate, jewellery and watches, to a considerable amount; and it cannot be denied that a great part of this plunder was found distributed amongst six pawn-brokers' offices. It is equally certain that had the same vigilance been exerted in this case, as in the one alluded to, the owners would have saved their property, and an unfortunate youth, the too willing instrument of villainy, might have been saved from destruction.

* These remarks were intended for the Belfast News-Letter, as the paragraphs to which they allude appeared in that paper; but the insertion was refused, on what grounds the Editor best knows.

It is but justice, however, to acknowledge, that three out of the six of those pawn-brokers, convinced of the truth of the above facts, have delivered up to the owners such of the above goods as they had taken in pawn; by which they have given the best proof of their having received them innocently. But what opinion can be formed of those others, who, having received in pawn part of the same goods; and from the very same individuals; which goods were identified on oath, and admitted by the pawn-brokers themselves to be the property of the claimants; notwithstanding which they still continue to withhold them from the lawful owners, in contempt of the magistrate's search-warrant; with the exception of some articles which they have been compelled to give up, on duplicates which were accidentally found in the deserted lodgings of the principal receivers, who have absconded. How is this conduct in the same individual to be reconciled to that above alluded to? But not content even with this, have they not entered into a combination to sue the injured party for damages! Damages for what? Have the pawn-brokers received any injury by retaining the goods of others? Yes: their immaculate characters have been wounded in the tenderest point, by broad insinuations having appeared in the public papers; that so many as thirty half dozens of silver tea-spoons, twelve table-spoons, twelve sugar-tongs, twelve gold seals, and several dozens of gold finger-rings, all perfectly new, could not have been pawned by two or three individuals of the very lowest class of society without exciting strong suspicion of their having been stolen. The pawn-brokers have sustained damages also, because the suffering

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party failed in one instance to prove on an indictment* to the satisfac-

* This indictment was grounded on the fact of the private shop-marks on the plate (expressing the weight and price) having been defaced between the time when first seen by the witness at the pawn-broker's, and the time when the same was taken up by the magistrate. The inference that those articles were part of the stolen property, conformable to the boy's confession, was founded on this strong circumstance; that from the earliest date of any of the articles having been pawned, till the 23d day of June, when the theft was discovered, no article of plate had been sold at the shop in question, but what had been engraved with the buyer's crest, or the initials of his name. It is true, one set of tea spoons was produced at the trial, having the same shop-marks as the stolen articles, without being engraved. The witness could not say, on being asked, whether they had been stolen or not, because he did not then recollect; nor was he then aware, that two or three half dozens of tea spoons had been purchased at said shop but a few days before the trial, (and long after the stolen articles had been taken up) by two individuals, who are well known, and who very obligingly declined giving the trouble of having them engraved with the owner's name, on purpose to be produced at the trial; this trick (which can be traced to its author) succeeded but too well, and fully explains the reason why the witness was uncertain as to the spoons shown him; whereas had the stolen property (which was in court, and in possession of the magistrate) been produced, a more positive evidence could then have been given, and a very different verdict have ensued. It is also very evident that in order to prove the defacement, it was necessary to have shown the defaced articles to the jury; the omission of this step, and consequent loss of the magistrate's testimony, (which was most important) must have been owing to mismanagement some where, or perhaps because the articles alleged to be defaced were not viewed by the jury, although the propriety of this was suggested by the witness. Be that as it may, there are three half dozens of those very spoons yet forthcoming, in the same state

tion of a jury, that the goods in question were received in pawn, knowing them to have been stolen; for this was the only point at issue, on the trial at Carrickfergus. These no doubt are very serious injuries, and are entitled to very heavy damages!!!

However, it is hoped the inhabitants of Belfast and elsewhere, may profit by the above examples, and beware of what servants or apprentices they admit as inmates into their houses: they will be convinced that it is much easier by bolts and bars to guard against depredators from *without*, than false and treacherous confidants from *within*; for by means of the latter, their property may readily find its way to the pawn-brokers, who, it appears by the above facts, are perfectly safe in receiving it, since although taken in pawn under the strongest circumstances of suspicion, it may be almost impossible to prove the fraudulent intention; (the *quo animo* must be gathered from circumstances alone,) and needy pettifoggers (as well as others of the cloth who ought to be more respectable,) are never wanting, who, by a perversion of law and justice, are not ashamed to defend such infamous conduct.

As to Donaldson, the victim of his own and others depravity, he affords a salutary lesson to all young men under temptation, not to betray the trust reposed in them; for although by the indulgence of those he has injured, he is yet at large, the punishment due to his crimes still hangs over him.

in which they were taken up from the traverser after the trial, on duplicates which were found in the lodgings of the three principal receivers, (for they all lodged in one house.) The spoons themselves will afford the best proof whether or not they have been defaced.

An inexperienced youth, of good principles, might unawares, or in the moment of intoxication, be induced to commit a crime, and be afterwards sorry for it; but to be capable of deliberately robbing his benefactors, who had placed the greatest confidence in him, and to continue this practice daily, for many months together, and to elude detection by the most refined cunning, argues in its author a degree of moral depravity but seldom met with in a youth of 15. Nor has he yet discovered any symptoms of con-

trition for the evil he has done, or disposition to make what little compensation is in his power to those he has injured, by discovering all he knows; but on the contrary, persists in the denial of facts of which it is impossible he could be ignorant; and has only divulged those which from strong circumstances, could not well be concealed. Until, therefore, he shows some proofs of repentance, he is deservedly excluded from honest society.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

AS Mr. Beaver seems to have been the very soul (we might almost say the soul and body) of the expedition to Bulama, we shall, from his African Memoranda, give a full length view of this indefatigable colonist; and who can peruse this representation without perceiving how much it is possible for a man to do for himself and others!

"Although I am not an advocate for Rousseau's mode of educating his Emilius, yet I cannot help thinking that the more practical knowledge one can acquire, the better; it makes a man acquainted with his own resources, and a less dependent being. I therefore, so far as relates to myself only, consider my time on the island of Bulama, (independent of the motives which led me to, or kept me there,) instead of being thrown away, as the best spent period of my life; for I was so completely thrown upon myself, as to be obliged to rely more upon my own individual resources and exertions, than I otherwise, probably, ever should have done.

"For one year of that time I had not an individual to converse with; I lived almost as much the life of an hermit, as if there had not been another human being upon the island. It is true that I set every body to work, and directed them what to do, but there our intercourse ceased; their work done, the grumetas retired to their houses, the settlers to their rooms, except at the latter part of my stay upon the island, when, in order to keep up for Mr. Hood, the only surviving subscriber, some degree of respect, which he appeared to me to be fast losing, I always had him to dinner with me, which occupied the hour between one and two.

"Besides, during the seventeen months that I remained on the island, I had occasion, and indeed was obliged, to practise more occupations and professions, (though I never before had a tool of any kind in my hand,) than would otherwise have ever been the case, in the whole course of my life. To wit:

"1st. Carpenter.—In all its bran-